

WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

April 5, 1991

Some head for home, but most will remain a while longer

Twenty-six members of the 639th Security Police Flight will trade their camouflage BDUs for "civvies" today when they are released from active duty.

The 43-member unit was mobilized for Desert Storm service Jan. 24. The 639th law enforcement personnel served at Westover, providing security along the flightline and throughout the base.

With the end of the hostilities and lowering of the threat level here, it was recently decided to deactivate the unit.

Although 26 unit members will leave active duty today, 17 others have volunteered to remain on duty at Westover for a while longer. They will augment the security operations of the 439th Security Police Flight and the base's civilian Department of Defense police.

Approximately 1,550 439th MAW reservists were mobilized for active duty during call-ups in August, December, January and March.

It is expected that many of them will remain on active duty for some months longer, as Westover aircrews continue to fly missions to and from the Persian Gulf, and as the base continues to welcome thousands of Desert Storm troops who are landing here around the clock.

Base officials have said they hope large-scale demobilizations of Patriot Wing reservists will take place prior to July 4. President Bush has said that he would like to have most of the Desert Storm troops back from the Persian Gulf by then.

Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander, has said that he is committed to "not keeping anyone (on active duty) one day longer than necessary."



GOODBYE—2nd Lt. Tim Donnelly, (left) commander of the 639th SPF, and SSgt. Awilda Bandy, are two members of the security police flight who will be leaving active duty today. (photo courtesy of the Union-News)

CES cooks to leave Gulf

The 439th CES Prime RIBS team members in the Persian Gulf have put away their pots and pans and are breaking down their tent city with hopes of leaving on April 12. The six-member team called Westover on Thursday to say they have been given that date tentatively to depart the C-130 base where they have been serving since January. "The weather is pleasant and they all say they're doing fine. They're not the kind of guys to complain," said Lt. Col. Wayne Booker, 439th CES OIC. The six are TSgt. Fred Cook, TSgt. Philip Lupien, SSgt. Gary Cormier, SrA. Paul Maratos, SrA. Clayton Muenchmeyer and A1C Alexander Walczyk. "We sent some of our best guys, and now we're really looking forward to welcoming them back," Colonel Booker said.

(continued on next page)

From the sand to the red carpet: a long, hard journey

When the Desert Storm troops walk down the Base Hangar's red carpet their wide smiles often mask the weariness of people too long on the road. It's a hard journey from the Middle East to the homecoming cheers.

The road home for Army SSgt. William Harrison started from a 101st Airborne advanced position overlooking Iraq's Euphrates River. At the time, "I was sleeping in a hole I dug," the infantry squad leader said.

Sergeant Harrison's trip from Mesopotamia to Westover began on

foot through the sand to find a HUM-VEE which took him to his battalion headquarters. Then he climbed into another vehicle going to brigade headquarters where he hitched a ride aboard a Huey helicopter to another desert airfield--still in Iraq. A ride on a second Huey got him across the border to the Saudi Arabian city of Rahfah.

From the border city he was scheduled to fly in a C-130 to King Khalid Military City in northern Saudi Arabia, but a wind and rain storm diverted the aircraft to Dhahran. That's where Sergeant Har-

ison boarded a Galaxy for the trip to Torrejon AB and the walk down Westover's red carpet, still carrying his gas mask and canteens and wearing boots scoured by the sand. He flew from Westover to Fort Campbell, Ky., and his wife in nearby Woodlawn, Tenn.

Sergeant Harrison went to Saudi Arabia in August in charge of a 12-man rifle squad with three goals.

"We wanted to do whatever the mission would be, do it well and bring everyone back," he said.

"We got all three done. I'm satisfied," Sergeant Harrison said.

Briefly ...

Spring forward

Westover personnel will lose an hour of sleep over the weekend when daylight-saving time goes into effect at 2 a.m. Sunday morning.

Remember to "spring forward" by setting your clock ahead one hour.

Electronic refunds

If you're entitled to a federal tax refund, electronic tax filing is available through the base legal office.

Personnel should bring their tax returns to the base legal office in Building 1875. The legal staff will assist with filling out the other necessary forms and the electronic filing.

According to SMSgt. Joe Kusiak of the legal office, electronic filing can expedite your receipt of the tax refund. For additional information, contact Sergeant Kusiak at extension 3180.

Tax tutor

Help with tax preparation is available at the Legal Office from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Individual assistance is offered in the tutored sessions for groups of up to four.

Participants should take their W2 forms, bank interest information and a copy of last year's tax return. For more information, call Ext. 3180.

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Heading home ...

(continued from front page)

"This has been the type of experience that you couldn't get two days a month (at UTAs)," said 2nd Lt. Timothy Donnelly, commander of the 639th SPF. "I told my people at commander's call that we have learned a lot and that we'll definitely be ready if we're ever needed again."

Lieutenant Donnelly, who assumed command of the unit just last August, will return to his civilian job as a Massachusetts State Police trooper with the Peabody Barracks.

In addition to the security police personnel, 14 selected members of the 74th AES have already been released

from active duty.

According to Captain David Zamorski, operations officer with the 74th, 13 additional members will be demobilized within the next week.

In January and February, 115 members of the 74th AES--nurses, medical technicians, radio operators and officers--were called to active duty. In early February, they deployed to staging areas in Germany, Turkey and the Persian Gulf.

Of the 88 members of the 74th remaining on active duty, 31 are still serving in the Gulf, and 57 are at Westover.

Captain Zamorski said that other squadron members are expected to be demobilized in the near future.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

April 9, 1991

Flocks of C-130s expected to land at Westover this week

Westover will again be a C-130 base—at least for a few days this week.

In addition to the usual Desert Storm C-5 activity, large numbers of Hercules aircraft returning from the Persian Gulf will be landing at the base, starting this afternoon.

Today at 4 p.m., the first of eight C-130s from Niagara's 914th Tactical Airlift Group will touch down at the base. The 914th, a subordinate unit of the 439th Military Airlift Wing, has been serving in the Persian Gulf since late last summer.

While in the Gulf, the New York unit teamed with the 927th TAG from Selfridge ANGB, Michigan, to form the 1650 Tactical Airlift Wing (Provisional). Its aircrews won accolades while performing numerous front-line tactical airlift missions during the war with Iraq.

The 914th's eight C-130s will land here at half-hour intervals this afternoon and evening.

On one of the Niagara planes will be 1st. Lt. Jeff Walker, a C-130 navigator from Selfridge's 927th TAG. Lieutenant Walker is the son of Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Mike Walker.

The 927th's eight C-130s are expected to arrive here at 30-minute intervals starting at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

According to Lt. Col. Philip Pettit, chief of Westover's command post, 205 personnel from the Niagara and 190 members of the 927th TAG will receive a "hero's welcome" in the base hangar.

Colonel Pettit added that the remainder of the week will also feature extensive C-130 activity at the base.

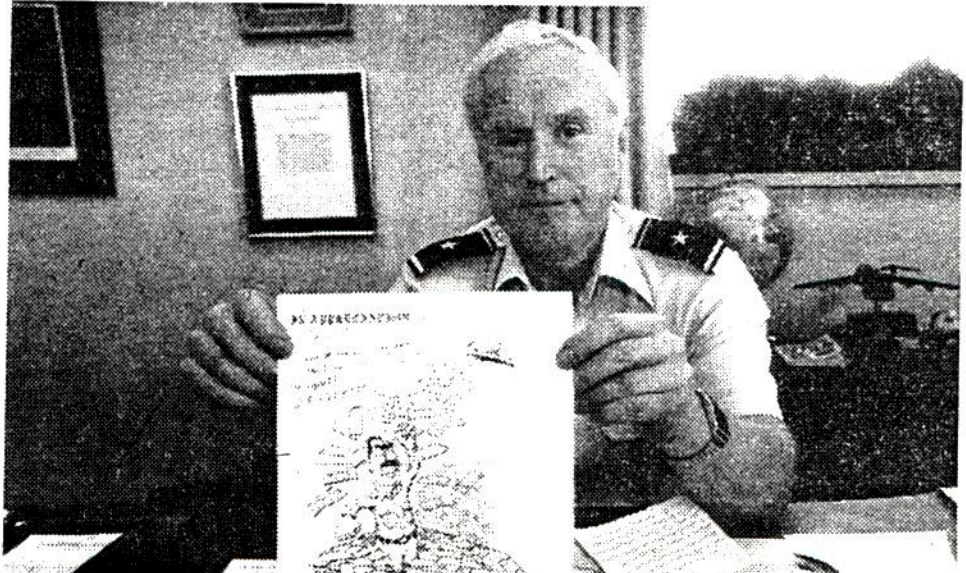
Westover will play host to the 130th Tactical Airlift Squadron from the West Virginia Air National Guard on Friday, the Texas ANG's 136th Tactical Airlift Wing on Saturday and the

314th Tactical Airlift Wing, from Little Rock AFB, Ark., starting on Sunday.

All are C-130 units which saw extensive duty in the Persian Gulf.

Maj. Gen. John J. Closner III, chief of the Air Force Reserve, will be on hand at Westover today to participate in the welcoming ceremonies.

The large influx of the versatile Hercules aircraft is likely to invoke memories of Westover's past. Prior to 1986, when the base converted to its present inventory of 16 C-5 Galaxies, the Patriot Wing aircrews flew C-130s on thousands of tactical airlift missions.



LOTS OF LETTERS -- Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander, has been getting plenty of fan mail lately. He's holding one of the numerous letters he's received recently which thanks Westover and its neighbors for the hero's welcome being given to thousands of Desert Storm troops who land at the base. (photo courtesy of the Union-News)

Warm Wethersfield welcome

Approximately 1,500 citizens from the town of Wethersfield, Conn. came to Westover Sunday to greet returning Desert Storm heroes. They welcomed the Gulf War veterans with two bands, a pair of fire trucks, and rousing cheers which echoed throughout the Base Hangar. "Wethersfield Day" marked the first time since homecoming celebrations began here that one town has turned out in large numbers to join in the festivities. Sunday featured warm welcomes in more way than one as the temperature at Westover reached a record-setting 88 degrees.

Flightline driving safety concerns base officials

Base officials have expressed concern recently over a rash of incidents involving unsafe driving on Westover's flightline.

"We have seen a number of instances lately where motor vehicles have been operated improperly out on the flightline," said Col. Thomas G. Hargis, base commander. "We are concerned that there might be an accident--particularly at night."

Westover safety officials have issued a bulletin which offers reminders to vehicle operators about the "rules of the runway."

It notes that the maximum speed for general purpose vehicles is 15 mph and the top speed for vehicles towing equipment is 10 mph.

Safety officials remind that taxiing aircraft always have

the right of way and should be given plenty of room in order to avoid collision.

Vehicles should never be driven under any part of an aircraft. Operators should drive to the right of yellow taxi lines, using them as a roadway centerline when on ramps and taxiways.

Between sunset and sunrise, drivers who park vehicles on the ramps and flightline should leave parking lights flashing. Head lights should always be on when driving during hours of darkness.

"We want to emphasize flightline driving safety at all levels throughout the base, Colonel Hargis said. "The bottom line is that most of this simply involves being safety conscious and using your common sense. We don't want anyone to get killed or injured," the base commander added.

Briefly ...

NASCAR tickets

Twenty free tickets are available through the Westover USO for the NASCAR Twins races at the New Hampshire International Speedway, Loudon, N.H., on April 14.

The event will include two 125-lap races and a concert by country and western performer B.J. Thomas.

The tickets will be available in the USO office in the Base Gym beginning on Monday.

Big numbers

As of 8 a.m. Monday, 15,348 Desert Storm troops have been greeted at

Westover since March 9. The base also processed 15,852 tons of west-bound cargo during that period.

Since Operation Desert Shield began on Aug. 4, Westover has handled 2,866 aircraft in connection with operations in the Gulf--2,399 of which were C-5 Galaxies.

Symphony discount

The Hartford, Conn. Symphony Orchestra will perform a "Mass in Time of War" on April 17 at 8 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 140 Farmington Ave. in Hartford. The performance is described as a "tribute to those who served in the Gulf and a prayer for world peace."

Military personnel with ID cards will receive a 50 per cent discount on the \$20 ticket price. For further information, call (203) 244-2999.

Open House

The Soldier's Home in Holyoke will host a Hospital Day Open House from 12 noon until 7 p.m. on May 14-15.

The event will feature free blood pressure, pulmonary and cholesterol screening, health-related information and guided tours of the hospital's outpatient department.

Ski sale

The skiing season is coming to a close but the best is yet to come at the Four Seasons Store.

Prices have been reduced on skis, boots, poles, bindings, goggles and other equipment. For more information, call Ext. 2974.

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Food pantry receives boost from Home Show

The food pantry at Westover's Desert Shield Support Center recently received a big boost from the Western Massachusetts Home Builders' Association.

According to Capt. Armand Tourangeau, the organization recently presented 10 cartons of non-perishable food items and \$1,500 in cash to the support center. The food and money were collected March 23-24 at the Western Massachusetts Home Show.

Cutathon to benefit Westover USO

The Westover USO will benefit from a "cutathon" to be sponsored by a group of Connecticut hair stylists in the Marshall's building of the Broad Street Parkade, Manchester, Conn., from noon to 6 p.m., Sunday, April 21. Haircuts will be \$7 and all proceeds will be donated to the Westover USO.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

April 12, 1991

Official cease-fire will increase work of Westover's ALCE

The United Nations Security Council adopted a formal cease-fire resolution yesterday, officially ending the hostilities with Iraq and clearing the way for thousands more U.S. service members to return home.

U.N. peacekeeping troops will soon police the Kuwait-Iraq border region, replacing the U.S.-led coalition forces currently there.

The U.S. Central Command yesterday announced that 40 per cent of the approximately 500,000 American troops who served in the Persian Gulf have already returned home.

The U.N.'s adoption of the formal cease-fire agreement will now expedite the return of many of the remaining U.S. personnel in the region.

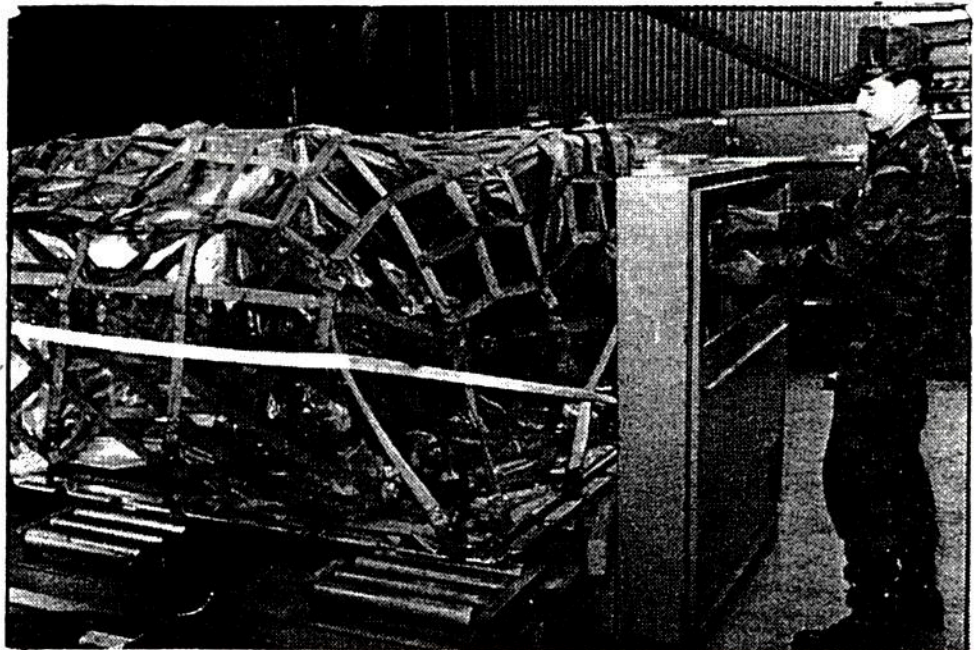
Members of Westover's 439th Airlift Control Flight, who are in Saudi Arabia, are expected to play a key role in the effort to airlift those troops back home.

The nine-member ALCE team arrived April 1 at a desert airbase in north central Saudi Arabia.

At the end of their first 10 days coordinating the return airlift from the forward airbase, ALCE members earned a 98 percent departure reliability rate. They are now preparing for an anticipated surge of Civilian Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) aircraft scheduled to begin bringing troops home soon, according to Lt. Col. Robert McMillan, the flight's commander.

Colonel McMillan leads 200 operations members and loadmasters who make up ALCE teams at the base. They are performing command and control for the redeployment of the 100,000 members of the VII Corps in northern Saudi Arabia and southern Iraq.

In the first 10 days ALCE personnel handled about 300 missions, with only



WEIGH-IN — Sgt. Tim Lapinski of 42nd APS weighs a pallet of supplies that will be shipped by air out of Westover. (photo courtesy of Transcript-Telegram)

eight delays. The missions included aeromedical flights of Allied members and Iraqi POWs to permanent medical facilities.

"The redeployment is going well. We've been told we could be home as early as Memorial Day," Colonel Mc-

Millan said during a telephone interview yesterday.

He said that members of his unit are living in tents and working out of trailers which are air conditioned against the heat. Recently, he said, (continued on next page)

Westover's CBPO: tops in nation

Westover's CBPO, which made mobilizations look easy during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, was recently named the Air Force Reserve's "Outstanding Consolidated Base Personnel Office of the Year." The 439th Combat Support Group CBPO, commanded by Capt. Denny Jobes, will now represent AFRES in Air Force-wide competition for the Gerrit D. Foster Jr. Achievement Award. Individual honors were received by SrA. Pamela R. Lehmann and Ms. Joann M. Varao of Westover's CBPO staff. Airman Lehmann was cited as the year's outstanding military personnel specialist, while Ms. Varao won in the civilian category for base level personnel specialists.

Following father's footsteps leads Currier to hero's welcome

When Bryan Currier followed the footsteps of his father into the 58th APS he never dreamed they would lead to a walk down a red carpet in the Base Hangar.

Former Westover aerial porter 1st Lt. Bryan Currier, son of MSgt. John Currier, 58th APS air transportation supervisor, came home to a hero's welcome from Desert Storm. As a member of the 74th TFS Flying Tigers, England AFB, La., he is credited as the first pilot to fly an A-10 into combat.

On the first day of the air war, he was flying with a four-plane unit which attacked an Iraqi artillery position in Kuwait. Lieutenant Currier was the first to drop a 500-pound bomb.

Flying two or three sorties a day, he logged almost 100 combat hours hitting artillery, anti-aircraft positions,

convoys and other ground targets in Kuwait and Iraq.

Some days were worse than others. He was north of Kuwait City when two miles square lit up. Shells were flying everywhere... you could see they were well organized," he said.

The Iraqi ground defense could be quiet for one A-10 team and deadly a half hour later for the next team. "If it wasn't the bullets scaring you, it was the lack of bullets. You didn't know what they were up to," Lieutenant Currier said.

His parents shared the strain. "He couldn't tell us where he was...when the first A-10 went down we sat by the television for hours," Sergeant Currier said. "It was six or eight hours before we knew it wasn't him...you can imagine how that was," he said.

"We watched CNN from morning to night...seeing the POWs was one of the worst times," he said.

Following the liberation of Kuwait, Lieutenant Currier flew his A-10 to England AFB. "I heard about the welcome at Westover. They told me about how wonderful it was," he said.

Home on leave, he returned to Westover to catch up with old friends. The walk with his proud father down the red carpet brought him full circle from where he began as a 58th APS member after graduating from high school in 1984. He left the 58th APS to earn an AFROTC commission upon graduation from Western New England College.

On his first weekend home on leave Lieutenant Currier married the former Gail Grincavitch of Holyoke.

Briefly ...

Closings announcement

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney will announce today during a Pentagon news conference which U.S. military installations DOD proposes to close. The secretary will submit his recommendations to the Presidential Bipartisan Commission on Base Closures and Realignment.

The eight-member commission will review the DOD proposals and recommend a list of base closures and realignments to the President and Congress by July 1. Under federal law, the President can either approve or disapprove the list, in whole or in part, by July 15.

The Congress must thereafter either accept or reject the base closure list in its entirety.

Redeployment figures

It's been a rapid redeployment. Statistics released this week by the Military Airlift Command indicate that during the period of March 1-April 9, MAC has flown 2,100 west-bound airlift missions.

Of that number, 23 per cent were flown by commercial aircraft under contract to the Air Force's Civilian Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) program. Since March 1, MAC has flown 160,000 troops and 51,000 tons of cargo back to the United States from the Persian Gulf.

Uniform changes

Air Force personnel can now wear the poly-wool gabardine lightweight blue jacket, as well as the A-2 leather flying jacket, when traveling by commercial transportation. The authorization results from changes to AFR 35-10 recently announced by the 88th Air Force Uniform Board.

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ALCE ...

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temperatures have exceeded 100 degrees.

"The biggest weather problem is the sand storms. Visibility will drop from 20 miles to 100 meters in minutes," Colonel McMillan said.

There have been no complaints of ill effects from burning Kuwaiti oil wells, the colonel reported. "When there is a west wind the smoke comes our way...it's like an

overcast day," he said.

The ALCE teams work 12-hour days and recently had a rare day off and an MWR trip. A 45-minute bus ride took ALCE members to a city where Colonel McMillan was told they found "not much there."

The flight commander sent a message to those who donated to a pallet of letters and small gifts aboard his C-5 to the Middle East. It was received with much appreciation by members of Army helicopter units in northern Saudi Arabia and southern Iraq, he said.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

April 16, 1991

Construction begins on Westover's C-5 simulator

Construction began Monday on Westover's long-awaited, \$20-million C-5 simulator project.

Workers from the D.A. Sullivan & Sons, a Northampton construction firm, began removing part of the floor in the Base Hangar where the state-of-the-art weapon system trainer, and the complex which will house it, are to be located.

The computerized simulator will be ready for operation in September of 1992, according to Carl J. Smith of the FlightSafety Services Corporation.

FlightSafety Services signed a contract with the Air Force last August for the design, construction and operation of the simulator at Westover.

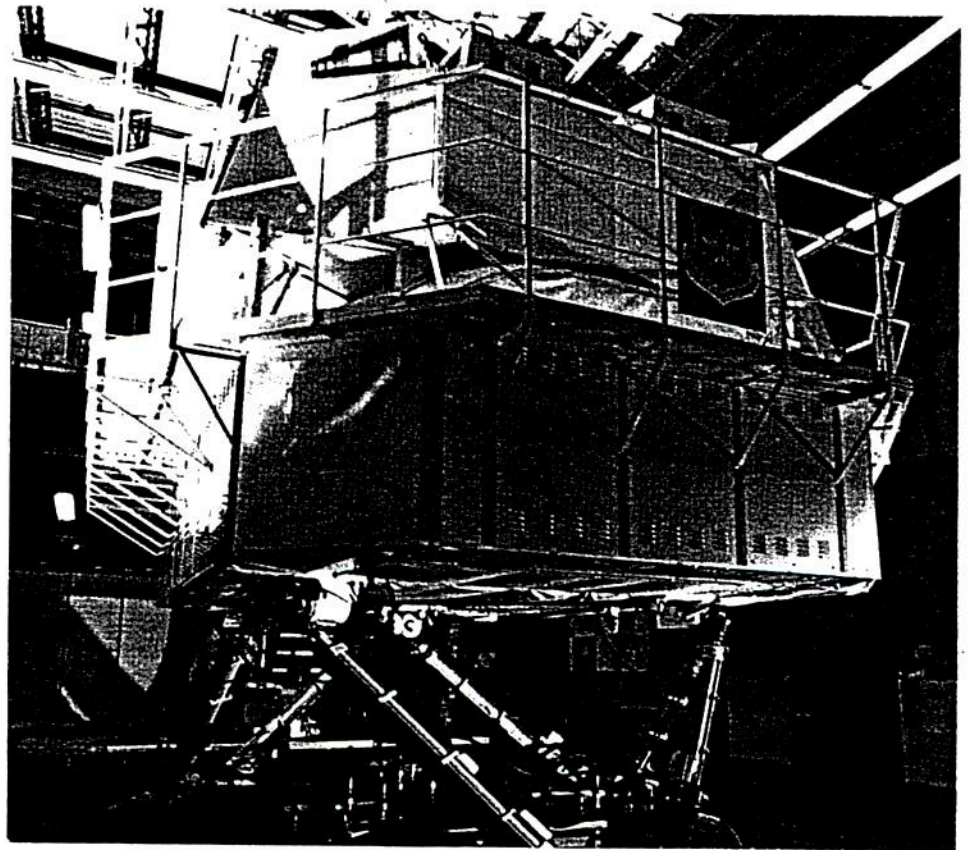
The weapon system trainer--described as "the most advanced training environment for...crewmembers operating the C-5 aircraft"--will be manufactured by CAE Electronics, Ltd. of Canada.

According to Mr. Smith, the simulator will be built on six hydraulic legs which can replicate the movement of an airborne C-5 Galaxy. The system's computer-generated imagery system adds to the realism by simulating the actual sights and sounds which an aircrew would experience during a flight.

He said that 15 C-5-specific data bases duplicate such scenarios as air-to-air refueling maneuvers, low-level approaches, and various emergencies during both daylight and nighttime.

Mr. Smith added that the realism of the sights, sounds and movements of the simulator will permit many flight training maneuvers which are currently performed in the air to be more economically and safely accomplished in the weapon system trainer.

"You can set up particular problems for the aircrews in the simulator which



COMING ATTRACTION--Construction began Monday at Westover on the \$20 million C-5 weapons system trainer project. The state-of-the-art, computerized simulator will provide realistic training for Westover's C-5 Galaxy aircrews.

Hectic, happy weekend

It was a hectic, but happy, weekend at Westover. Thousands of visitors came to the base Saturday and Sunday to greet returning Desert Storm heroes who landed here. The base played host to its largest single group of Persian Gulf veterans Saturday at 5:15 p.m. when a commercial 747 airliner touched down with 407 soldiers from nearby Ft. Devens aboard. Nearly 3,000 people, many of them friends and relatives of the Devens troops, jammed the Base Hangar for the arrival. The weekend was also a happy one for the Westover chapter of the U.S.O. A fundraising broadcast Sunday by Channel 40 TV at the Holyoke Mall raised approximately \$5,000 in donations to help fund the ongoing homecoming celebrations here.

(continued on next page)

Air Force weathermen weather desert combat with Army

The rare combination of Screaming Eagle patches above Air Force chevrons was seen in the Base Hangar upon the recent return of Air Force weather technicians attached to the 101st Airborne Division.

The patches were worn by five members of the 5th Weather Squadron who accompanied the 101st Airborne sweep into Iraq. As permanently attached members of the squadron, the weather technicians were on their way to Fort Campbell, Ky. with the soldiers. They wore the patches on both the right shoulder and the left, in the Army tradition of showing combat service with a unit.

Among them were SrA. Dwayne Klinzmann who shared the hardships of life with infantrymen. At Forward Operating Base Eagle on the Euphrates River he gave up his shelter half to sleep in an oil line pipe which he found sitting above ground before it was installed.

He and other weather technicians both forecasted and endured the rain that turned the dark clay to a flooded plain. The weather technicians predicted the low ceilings, rain and wind which plagued the six battalions of 101st Airborne helicopters during the air assault to Forward Operating Bases Cobra and Eagle.

Briefly ...

Medal authorized

Personnel who served in Southwest Asia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm will receive a medal recently authorized by the President.

Designed by the Institute of Heraldry, the Southwest Asia Service Medal is suspended from a sand-colored ribbon with red, white, blue, green and black stripes. To depict joint service participation, a tank, armored personnel carrier, helicopter, ship and aircraft are emblazoned on the front of the medal.

Military members who served in Southwest Asia are authorized award of the medal.

Flightline parking

Base safety officials have issued a "parking reminder" to all personnel who operate motor vehicles on Westover's flightline area. Vehicles being parked near aircraft on the flightline must be parked only in the designated, white-lined boxes. Vehicles should be parked so they can depart the designated areas by driving straight ahead. Parking lights should be left on "flashing" when parked on the flightline during hours of darkness.

Chart toppers

What songs did American troops serving in the desert listen to most? Here's a list of the most requested songs played by the desert deejays of the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service during Operation Desert Storm:

1) "Wind Beneath My Wings" by Bette Midler; 2) "Take This Job and Shove It" by Johnny Paycheck; 3) "God Bless the USA" by Lee Greenwood; 4) "You Can't Touch This" by M.C. Hammer; 5) "Ice Ice Baby" by Vanilla Ice; 6) "Another One Bites the Dust" by Queen; 7) "Friends in Low Places" by Garth Brooks.

Reservists' rights

Members of the Guard and Reserve who were called to active duty for Operation Desert Storm have the right to return to their civilian jobs when they are released from active duty. The Veterans Reemployment Rights Act provides reemployment protection for reservists and guardsmen who are recalled to active duty.

For further information, contact Mr. Stanley Zucker, ESGR chairman, at (413) 786- 3994.

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Devens, Loring to close

Several New England military facilities were on the list of bases proposed for closure last Friday by Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney. Fort Devens in Ayer, Mass. and Loring Air Force Base, located near Limestone, Maine, were among the installations which will be closed if the DOD proposal is adopted by the President and Congress.

C-5 Simulator... (continued from front page)

you couldn't do in the aircraft," said Mr. Smith, who is a retired Air Force C-5 pilot. "For example, you wouldn't shut down an engine in the air to practice a three-engine approach, but you can realistically simulate that (emergency) in the weapon system trainer."

"It's training that you can count on," Mr. Smith added.

Westover will join three other sites--Altus AFB, Oklahoma, Dover AFB, Delaware and Travis AFB, California--which have C-5 simulators. Westover aircrews currently travel to Dover to fulfill simulator training requirements.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

April 19, 1991

337th aircrews airlift humanitarian aid to Kurds

Aircrews from Westover's 337th MAS have been flying humanitarian airlift missions to Turkey this week, hauling food and supplies for Kurdish refugees fleeing there from Iraq.

Approximately 800,000 of Iraq's four million Kurds have fled to Turkey and its border, and nearly 1.5 million others have sought safety in and near Iran, the Associated Press reported yesterday. The massive exodus of Iraqi Kurds began several weeks ago after troops loyal to Saddam Hussein quashed a rebellion by Kurdish tribesmen.

Most of the Westover C-5 crews currently flying overseas are involved with the relief effort which U.S. officials have dubbed *Operation Provide Comfort*.

Four 337th aircrews went to Turkey on April 16, and six others flew "Provide Comfort" missions on April 18.

The Westover crew members are hauling the humanitarian supplies in Galaxies which fly from bases in Europe to Incirlik AB in Turkey. Supply helicopters and C-130 aircraft from the U.S., France and Great Britain then deliver the food and other relief provisions to refugee camps along the Turkish border.

President Bush has sent U.S. forces to protect the refugees and has warned Iraq to cease reprisals against the Kurds.

Last Saturday, troops from Fort Devens in Ayer were airlifted from Westover to Europe in support of Operation Provide Comfort.

The 337th's involvement in the humanitarian airlift came as no surprise to officials here. Westover officials has expected that their Galaxies-- which played a major role in the Desert Storm airlifts to and from the Persian Gulf--would be called upon to fly in the relief effort.



HELPING HAND -- Two brothers carry their ill father to a medical tent across rocky terrain surrounding a refugee camp on the Turkey-Iraq border yesterday. French medical teams are working in several areas in the mountain camps. (Associated Press photo)

Big gift from Big Y

Westover's Desert Shield Support Center got a big gift from the Big Y Supermarket chain yesterday. Gerald E. D'Amour, chief executive officer of Big Y, presented a check for \$26,200 to Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander. Big Y, which operates 28 supermarkets throughout Western Massachusetts and Connecticut, donated the money which it earned from the sale of Very Important Patriot pins during the Persian Gulf crisis. The money will be used by the support center, which aids armed forces members and dependents who have been impacted as the result of service during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. During the ceremonies, Mr. D'Amour received an award from the Massachusetts Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee.

New legislation extends benefits for Desert Storm veterans

President Bush has approved legislation which changes the rate of Variable Housing Allowance (VHA), authorizes BAQ payments for eligible mobilized reservists without dependents, and expands family separation, insurance and housing loan benefits.

The legislation provides for mobilized reservist to receive VHA payments at the rate applicable to their place of residence rather than their duty station. The new rate is effective from April 6.

VHA payments will remain the same or increase for the majority of Westover reservists, according to Richard McGinty of Accounting and Finance.

The VHA rates are based on the government's estimate of cost of living in each zip code area. As before, they are determined according to a formula which includes the individual's pay grade, mortgage or rent costs and taxes.

The act also extends VHA to

reserve members on active duty in connection with the Persian Gulf conflict for periods less than 140 days.

BAQ is authorized for mobilized reservists without dependents who have occupied government quarters. Those eligible are reservists who at the time of their call to active duty were maintaining a primary residence which they were unable to occupy, but continued to meet rent or mortgage payments.

The payments will be made retroactively for service dating to Aug. 2.

The monthly family separation allowance is increased from \$60 to \$75 each. The payments are retroactive to Jan. 15.

Under the act, maximum SGLI coverage automatically increases from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Premium deductions which were previously \$4 a month double to \$8.

The coverage and increased premiums automatically went into effect at the time the legislation was

signed on April 6. Those who prefer to retain the previous insurance coverage and deductions may make arrangements through the CBPO.

Any member who served on active duty for 90 days or more during the Gulf War is eligible for housing loan benefits.

Imminent Danger Pay/Hostile Fire Pay is increased by \$40, to \$150 a month. Those eligible must serve at least six days in the designated area.

The legislation, titled the Persian Gulf Conflict Supplemental Authorization and Personnel Benefits Act of 1991, expands other less commonly used benefits. Included are readjustment counseling for those who served in a hostile area since 1975, psychiatric care for Persian Gulf veterans, and eligibility for prescription drugs for certain veterans.

Further information on pay entitlements under the act is available through orderly rooms.

Recent U.S. District Court decision defends rights of reservists

An airline's refusal to hire a pilot who was away on military reserve duty on the date he was supposed to start work violated federal law, according to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Base legal officials say that the recent decision in *Beatlie v. Trump Shuttle Inc.*, clarifies the Veterans' Reemployment Rights Act. The court ruled that the law prohibits discrimination based upon reserve obligations against applicants for a new job, as well as against those already employed.

"I'm aware of several Westover airmen who will be aided by this decision, said Maj. Robert Bersak of the 439th MAW legal office.

"Until now, individuals between jobs were offered little comfort that a reservist offered a new job by an employer is entitled to that job upon release from active duty."

The major said that the court based its ruling on language in the law which provides that a reservist who "seeks or holds" a job "shall not be denied hiring, retention in employment, or any promotion...because of an obligation as a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces."

The legal office is available to assist personnel who face reemployment problems or have questions concerning their rights. For more details call ext. 3180.

WESTOVER today

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Briefly ...

Leave must be used or sold

Reservists who earned leave while on active duty must use it during their last 30 days of mobilization or sell it back to the government, according to Capt. Denny Jobes, director of personnel.

Those eligible for accrued leave may now begin using it if their unit's mission allows it.

Mobilized reservists earn leave at the same rate of 30 days a year as active duty members.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

April 22, 1991

We're going home: D-Day set for July 15!

July 15 will be D-Day for most of the 1,550 Westover reservists who were activated for Operation Desert Storm.

Demobilization of activated personnel will take place on that date, according to a message which base officials received Friday from Gen. H. T. Johnson, commander of the Military Airlift Command.

"I will reduce our strategic airlift on a first-called, first-released basis, while striving to meet anticipated world-wide airlift requirements and the legal mandates for partial mobilization," General Johnson said in the message.

MAC plans to demobilize three C-141 and two C-5 units on May 15, four C-141 and two C-5 units on June 15, two C-5 units on July 15, and the remaining four C-141 units and single C-5 unit on August 1.

Along with the 439th MAW, the 349th MAW from Travis AFB, California will be released from active duty on July 15.

"Now we have a date which our people can look to and start planning for their return to civilian life," said Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander. "But we've got a lot of work to do--with the ongoing airlift operations and the welcome celebrations at Westover--between now and then."

General Johnson said in his message that ongoing strategic airlift requirements will "continue to stress our remaining active and reserve force capability."

"With this in mind," the MAC commander added, "the unit commanders will be encouraged to retain on active duty...personnel who make themselves available, up to the statutory limits of partial mobilization."

General Johnson said that Air Force
(continued on next page)



HOMEcoming -- Since March 9, more than 19,000 returning Desert Storm heroes have been welcomed home at Westover. There's a happy story attached to each homecoming. Here, Army SSgt. Michael Gay of Montpelier, Vt. is reunited with his infant son, Justin, and wife, Kim. (photo courtesy of Associated Press)

Wing honored for "Storm" work

The 439th MAW received the prestigious Jimmy Doolittle Fellowship Award Saturday during ceremonies at the Massachusetts Air Force Association's annual convention in Stoneham. The Patriot Wing was honored for its work during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. "The Desert Storm work at Westover is one example of how some Reserve forces excel," said former Strategic Airlift Command commander Gen. Russell E. Dougherty, who presented the award to Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander. The retired SAC chief added that the Gulf war "put the stars in Westover's crown," and demonstrated that all branches of the armed services should be placing more emphasis on the readiness of Guard and Reserve units.

D-day announced for activated reservists... *(continued from front page)*

Reserve C-141 units which were not activated for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm will be encouraged to volunteer to fly missions in the ongoing airlift. The MAC boss also indicated that he planned to task available Reserve cargo aircrews for missions "above that needed for their training requirements."

Approximately 200 members of Westover's 337th MAS have been on active duty since last August, shortly after Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait. The other 439th reservists were activated during call-ups here in December, January and March.

During the crisis and war in the Gulf, 337th aircrews flew hundreds of missions to the Persian Gulf. The 74th AES sent its nurses, medical technicians and radio operators to Germany, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, and the 439th CES deployed six PRIME RIBS cooks to the war zone.

The other activated 439th reservists remained at Westover-

-the northeast stage facility for Desert Shield and Desert Storm--supporting the largest military airlift operation in history.

More than 32,000 passengers and 80,000 tons of cargo were flown from Westover to the Persian Gulf since last August. Since the U.S. victory over Iraq and subsequent cease-fire in March, nearly 19,000 returning Persian Gulf veterans have been welcomed in the Base Hangar.

Despite the demobilization notice, Westover's work load remains heavy. Even as the MAC message was being reviewed here, ten 337th aircrews were flying relief supplies for Kurdish refugees in Turkey, and base personnel here were greeting plane loads of returning Desert Storm troops.

"Our Reserve and Guard crews have proven they are a tough, dedicated and professional airlift force--national assets who have earned this nation's highest respect and gratitude," General Johnson said.

Briefly ...

Wanna march?

The 439th MAW has recently been inundated with requests to participate in upcoming parades in area cities and towns.

Among the events are a May 4 parade in Stow, Mass., a May 19 march in Bellingham, Mass., a parade scheduled for May 26 in Hatfield, Mass., several local Memorial Day events on May 27, a parade in Ware, Mass., on May 31 and Fourth of July parades in Wakefield, Mass. and South Hadley, Mass.

Wing officials are soliciting

volunteers from the unit to participate in these and other events. If you'd like to put your best foot forward, contact MSgt John Sullivan of the 439th CSG staff at extension 3590 or 2957.

Quite a tab

The haven't completely figured out the entire tab yet, but so far the Persian Gulf War has cost \$32.2 billion.

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, the final price tag was likely to rise, since the figures compiled thus far by the Department of Defense did not include the costs of actual combat, or the replacement or repair of equipment damaged during the fighting.

Six countries have pledged to give

the United States \$54.6 billion to help defray the costs of its participation in Operation Desert Storm.

Loyalty Day Parade

The city of Lowell, Mass will hold a "Loyalty Day Parade" next Sunday, and Westover personnel are invited to march.

The 1.7-mile march will step off in Lowell at 9 a.m. on April 28.

According to Lt. Col. Richard Carr, commander of the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 10 members of his unit are planning to participate, and all wing personnel are also invited to join in the parade.

For further information, contact Colonel Carr at extension 2239.

WESTOVER today

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Bear Mountain to perform

Are you hankering for a little "Southern-fried rock & roll"?

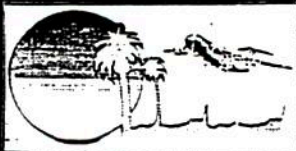
The Westover Consolidated Open Mess will offer it on the menu May 18 when the group "Bear Mountain" performs at the club. The music starts at 9 p.m.

For further details, call the Consolidated Open Mess at 593-5531.

Suggestion awards

Four Westover employees recently won cash awards from the Air Force Suggestion Program.

Kelly E. Payne received \$100 for her suggestion of an automated immunization update program; Arthur W. Herring was awarded \$150 for suggesting a new tool which opens the fire station's water reservicing valve; Dean C. Sleeper Jr. earned \$250 for his idea about radio placement and Christopher L. Shulick's suggestion concerning safer and more efficient ways to hold entrance doors open was rewarded with a \$75 stipend.



Cooks return from desert kitchen

For A1C Alex Walczyk, one of six 439th CES cooks who recently returned from the Middle East, preparing meals for 2,000 men and women living in a tent city was a "good experience."

The Prime RIBS team, which left Westover on Jan. 11, arrived at their duty station in the Persian Gulf area just days before the outbreak of the air war.

Airman Walczyk said he felt prepared and sufficiently trained to begin the hard task which he and the five other cooks faced.

Once the shooting started, donning chemical suits and gas masks become an everyday affair. The high terrorist threat was a constant reminder of just how serious the situation was.

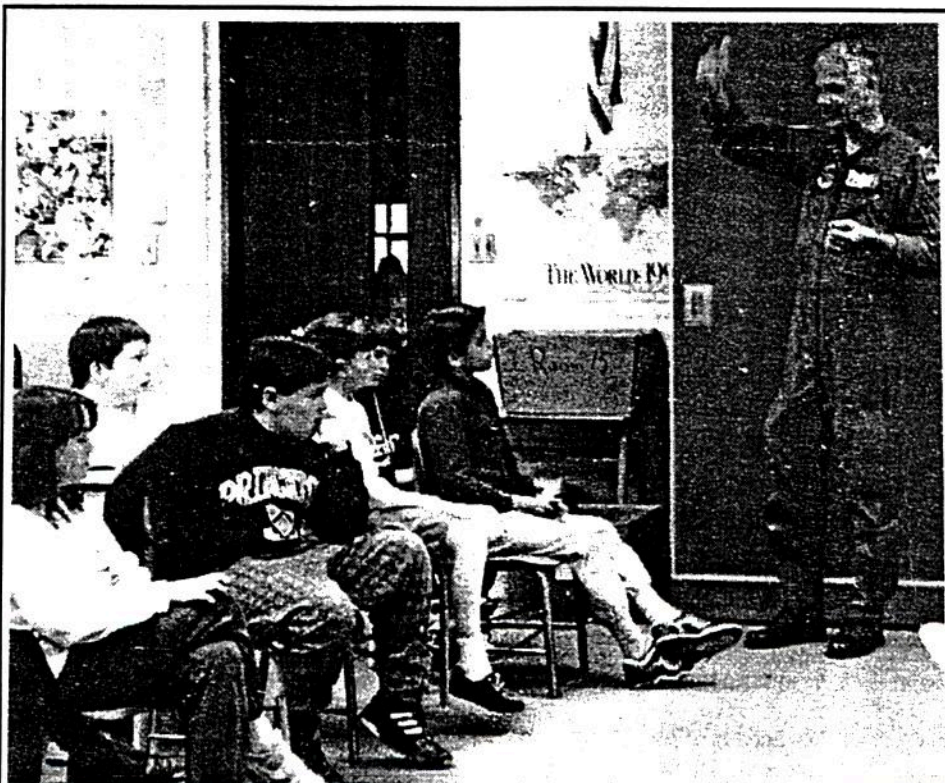
"Security in the tent city was extremely tight. But even so, it was hard not to be apprehensive about possible terrorist activities," he said.

The cooks split into teams of two and worked 12-hour shifts, six days a week. On their one day off they spent most of their time resting. Only after the cease-fire were they able to go into the local communities for brief MWR trips, Airman Walczyk said.

"I really couldn't complain about our working conditions" he said. They often had to make do with dehydrated, canned and frozen food, but there was an occasional steak, which everyone appreciated, he said.

Throughout their tour overseas they were kept well informed of the progress of the war through newspapers and CNN broadcasts. "I am glad that I was chosen to go," Airman Walczyk said.

"I wouldn't have minded staying longer if I could have. It's not something that every reservist gets to do. I may never get another chance."



STUDENT BRIEFING --Maj. Bob Martens, a pilot with the 337th Military Airlift Squadron, details his flight mission to fifth graders at Robertson Elementary School, in Manchester, Conn. (photo courtesy of the Manchester Herald)

Leaving on leave

According to Capt. Denny Jobes of Westover's CBPO, activated reservists who have earned leave time will be allowed to take terminal leave after the July 15th demobilization date.

For example, a person with 30 days accrued leave could depart from Westover on July 15th, but would continue on active duty status until August 15. During the interim, the service member would be considered on leave status, and would continue receiving active duty pay and most benefits, including retirement points.

Westover personnel will receive additional information on this topic, and all aspects of the demobilization, from the CBPO in the near future, Captain Jobes added.

Care packages spelled S-U-P-P-O-R-T for desert troops

The tons of cookies, tooth brushes, shaving cream, socks and skin lotion which citizens in the Westover area sent to the desert conveyed an important message to U.S. troops serving there.

"The packages showed us we had the support of the people back home and that this was not another Vietnam," said Maj. Kenneth A. Byrd, who served in Saudi Arabia from August to January.

Major Byrd, a transportation officer who is now serving on the Headquarters USAF staff at the Pentagon, visited Westover last week to attend an airlift conference here.

He told Brig. Gen. Mike Walker, 439th MAW commander, that he wanted to personally thank people from this area, since he had received a "Westover care package" while he was stationed in the Gulf.

"The items which you folks sent were desperately needed, particularly early on when the BX structure over there wasn't in existence," Major Bird said.

The care package which Major Byrd received enabled him to replace his tooth brush, which he lost during his first two weeks in the desert. It also provided him with hard-to-get toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream and skin softener.

One of the major's responsibilities as a transportation officer in the Persian Gulf was to see to it that supplies reached forward operating areas in the theater. That job, he said, also gave him a first-hand look at the generosity of

the people who sent donations to Westover.

"My commander had me establish an aerial port and see to it that MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) pallets were distributed to troops in the outlying locations. I handled 40-50, 2000-pound pallets which contained donations from your base."

Major Byrd, a 38-year-old resident of Springfield, Virginia and a distant relative of the famous admiral, said that he knew the source of the donated supplies because each pallet bore a sticker which read: "From your friends at Westover."

"We could tell from the volume and quality of the items being sent that you cared," Major Byrd said. "The packages showed us that our people were going to be treated with the dignity they were due."

Since Desert Shield began last August, thousands of people from Western Massachusetts and Connecticut brought books, food and comfort items to Westover for shipment to the troops in the Persian Gulf. Scores of area businesses and civic organizations aided the effort by making donations and sponsoring collections.

Whenever there was space available, C-5 crews from Westover airlifted the care packages, which were placed on wooden pallets by aerial porters from the 42nd APS, to the desert.

"We just can't say enough about the kindness extended by the people in the Westover area," Major Byrd added.

Resume workshop

A two-part resume writing workshop will be held at the Desert Shield Support Center May 21 and 22 from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. For details call ext. 2273.

WESTOVER today

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Briefly ...

Rafting trip

The Base Gym will sponsor a white water rafting trip on the Penobscot River in Maine June 8 and 9.

The \$125.00 charge will cover round-trip transportation, a cook out, lodging, and the rafting itself. Spaces must be reserved by May 10 at the gym. For more information, call ext. 2328.

Golf scramble

The annual Westover AFB Spring Golf Scramble will take place on May 15.

The tournament will be held at Tekoa Country Club in Westfield. The entry fee is \$35.00, and includes a prime rib dinner and refreshments.

Prizes will be awarded. All interested players must sign up by May 6. For more information, call Chris Menard at ext. 3056.

Children's activities

The Desert Shield Support Center will be sponsoring various children's activities throughout the coming weeks.

On Sunday, April 28, the Massachusetts Audubon Society-Laughing Brook Education Center & Wildlife Sanctuary in Hamden, Mass., will present an hour-long "Animal Interview" at the Support Center at 2:30.

Marylynn Orlovsky of KUR Health Systems will offer her parent/child simultaneous exercise course again from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on May 2 and May 16. For more information, call 557-CARE.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

April 29, 1991

74th medics overcome sandstorms, spiders, and sizzling temps

For 12 members of the 74th AES, sandstorms, spiders and sizzling temperatures are all part of their daily Desert Storm mission.

The 12 were interviewed late last week in Saudi Arabia by TSgt Tom Allocco and SrA Kym Taylor of the 439th MAW public affairs office. The PA staffers are in the Persian Gulf to cover the activities of Patriot Wing members still deployed there.

The Westover nurses and medical technicians were staying at a location known as "Eskan." (Eskan is the Arabic word for village.)

The site--which consists of numerous tan-colored cement housing units--was built approximately nine years ago by the Saudi government as housing for Bedouin tribe members. The nomadic Bedouins refused to move there, reportedly because they would not be allowed to bring their camels with them.

Those interviewed include Capt. Michael R. Carey, Capt. Elaine D'Aprile, MSgt. Mark Johnson, MSgt. David A. Perrault, TSgt. Brian P. Major, SSgt. Benedict B. Fiamma, SSgt. Mary A. Elwell, SSgt. Melissa K. Pitts, 1st Lt. Kathy Mikaniewicz, Capt. Ellen M. Restivo, SSgt. Rafa Reyes-Almanzar and SrA Joseph T. White, Jr.

The medics--who are on standby to fly aeromedical evacuation missions--endure 105-degree temperatures and blinding sandstorms.

They must also contend with camel spiders, which are the size of the human hand.

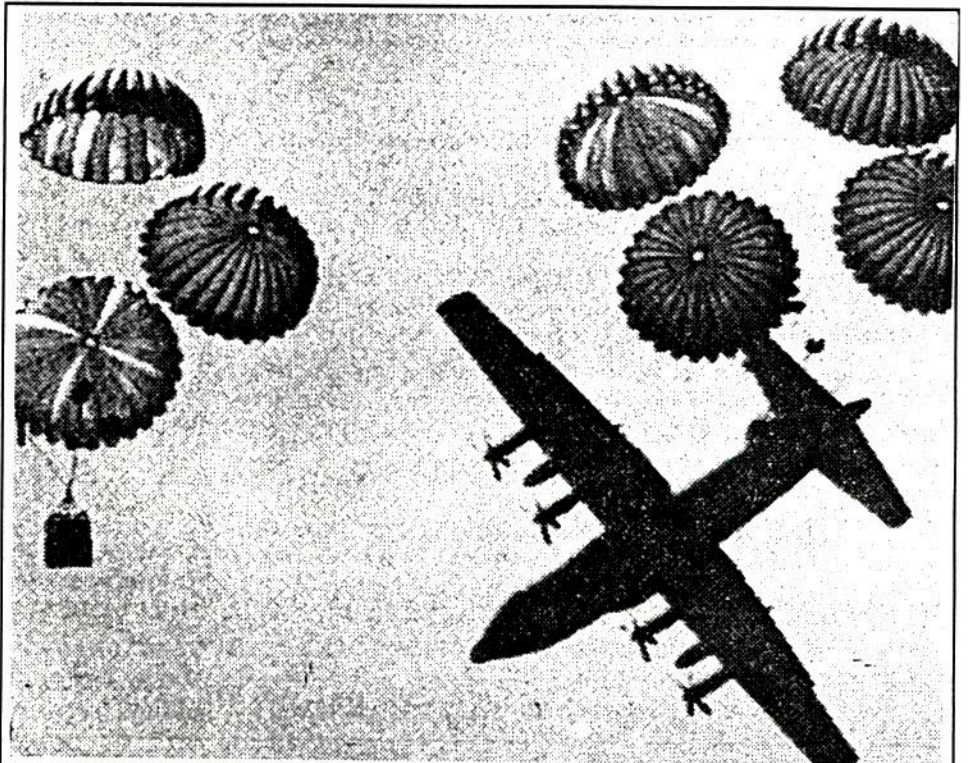
Still, the 74th members aren't complaining. "This place is heaven as compared with one of our other locations," said Sergeant Elwell. "There, the tents were flooded from heavy rains in March."

According to Sergeant Johnson,

unit members help each other through the rough times. "The best thing here is that people in the unit have a way of helping each other and lifting each

other's spirits."

Despite the austere conditions, unit morale is high. "We're proud to be
(continued on next page)



HELP POURS IN -- An allied transport plane drops parachutes carrying food supplies en route to one of the Kurdish refugee camps near the Iraqi-Turkish border. (Associated Press photo)

"The only place to go"

Aircrews still serving in the Persian Gulf want to go home via Westover, according to Lt. Col. Bob McMillan, commander of Westover's ALCE team. Colonel McMillan and eight other members of his unit have been serving in Saudi Arabia since April 1, coordinating the airlift home. He said during a telephone interview Sunday that word of Westover's special homecoming reception for Desert Storm troops has been spreading throughout the theater. "The Herky (C-130) drivers who come through here all know about it and they all want to land at Westover," Colonel McMillan said. "As far as they are concerned, Westover is the only place to go."

74th AES...

(continued from front page)

here, doing what we're trained for," said Captain Carey.

Captain Carey is anxiously awaiting news from home. He and his wife are expecting a baby May 11.

The 74th personnel flew on air evac missions both before and after the cease-fire. They have also provided treatment for Iraqi POWs.

The Westover medics report that boredom is one of the biggest drawbacks. Due to limited reception of satellite transmissions at their loca-

tion, they can only watch about 10 minutes of a TV program before the signal fades. As a result, unit members spend a lot of their free time reading.

The village where the medics are deployed is approximately 30 minutes from a large Saudi Arabian city. To drive there, the medics travel a modern, six-lane highway through the desert which passes mosques and a large camel ranch.

Although the unit members all say they are anxious to return home, they realize they are playing an important role in the ongoing Desert

Storm saga.

"Our job is medevac," said Sgt. Johnson. "If our guys in the field need medevac, we're here to help them."

The 12 74th members also had a message for their friends in the unit back at Westover.

"Tell them we're still wearing our green wrist bands," said Sgt. Perrault.

When the 110 members of the squadron deployed to Europe and the Persian Gulf last February, they all vowed to wear the bands until the last unit member returned home.

Briefly ...

Summer getaways

If you're planning to hit the road for a little R&R this summer, Westover's Recreation Supply Store might be able to help.

The store rents recreation vehicles and campers for reasonable rates. Reservations are required, and the vehicles are in great demand. Call extension 2974 for further information about rentals and reservations.

Mother's Day Brunch

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12, and Westover's Consolidated Open Mess has a special brunch planned to help you celebrate the occasion.

The cost is \$10.95 per person for adults and \$5.95 per child. The Club will host four seatings of the brunch at 11

a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Reservations are requested. For further details, call 593-5531.

Mickey Who?

The MWR staff has information about military discounts for Disney World and Disney Land. If you've been meaning to pay Mickey and Minnie a visit, now may be just the time to do so. For further details call Chris at extension 2328.

Hometown hero

WMAS Radio in Springfield honored Westover as a "hometown hero" this morning during a broadcast of the "Tom and Mike Show". The base and wing were cited for outstanding achievement during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Patriot Home and Provide Comfort. Col. Ralph Oates, 439th MAW vice commander, appeared on the show and accepted the award on behalf of the base.

WESTOVER today

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439th members aid war orphans

Thanks to three members of the 439th ALCE and the people of Brockton, Mass., some Iraqi and Kuwaiti war orphans recently received some unexpected gifts.

When the 439th ALCE team deployed to Saudi Arabia on Easter Sunday, they brought several pallets of morale, welfare and recreational supplies with them to the desert. Some of the items had been donated during the Gulf War by a Brockton, Mass.

organization known as "Brockton Cares."

The Westover ALCE members-Lt. Col. Bob McMillan, MSgt. Tom O'Brien and MSgt. Bob Seaton--spent part of a recent day off visiting the orphanage in Kuwait. To the delight of the children there, they distributed some of the toys, games and other humanitarian supplies which had been included in the Brockton donations.



WESTOVER today

439th Military Airlift Wing

May 2, 1991

ALCE team coordinating airlift home from desert airbase

SAUDI ARABIA ---They live in a tent city in the middle of the desert, where the daily temperature lately has averaged



105 degrees.

Every morning at 4 a.m., they can hear the morning prayers of the faithful being recited at a nearby mosque.

Since April, nine members of the 439th ALCE team have been stationed at a desert airbase near the Iraq-Kuwait-Saudi Arabian tri-border area.

The Westover personnel were visited recently by 439th MAW public affairs staffers TSgt. Tom Allocco and SrA Kym Taylor, who are in the Persian Gulf to chronicle the activities of Patriot Wing members still deployed there.

Since arriving in Saudi Arabia, the ALCE team, which is commanded by Lt. Col. Bob McMillan, has been coordinating the airlift home of 120,000 soldiers from the U.S. Army's VII Corps.

Colonel McMillan, who is in charge of a staff of approximately 200 who work around the clock in shifts, says that the pace is frenetic.

ALCE personnel are responsible for moving between 25-30 aircraft each day. It is a well-choreographed effort that takes plenty of planning, communication and coordination.

"We've already airlifted out 80,000 troops, plus all their equipment and supplies," he said.

The ALCE team is now gearing up for a final surge that will redeploy the remaining 40,000 VII Corps personnel, starting at the end of April.

The Colonel said that the VII Corps airlift is expected to be completed around May 9, but that the ALCE team will still have work to do after the soldiers depart.

As an example, he said, there are currently 1.6 million pounds of cargo pallets at his location. It would take 41 C-141 flights just to remove the pallets.

Because the Westover team arrived in the Gulf just last month, it is possible that team members will be given another

(continued on next page)

HOME GROUND -- Returning from the Persian Gulf, a member of the 142nd Medical Company of the Connecticut National Guard waves to family and greeters at Westover's Base Hangar April 29. *(photo courtesy of Associated Press)*

Milestone in the desert

There wasn't any champagne, or even a cold beer. But 74th AES member Mark Johnson, who is serving in Saudi Arabia, celebrated nonetheless when he was recently promoted to the rank of master sergeant. Sergeant Johnson sewed on his new chevrons at a location in the desert. The new master sergeant, who flies Desert Storm aeromedical evacuation missions, is now stationed with 11 other 74th AES medics at Eskan Village in Saudi Arabia.

Westover Galaxy crew views ravaged and burning Kuwait City

A few hours on the ground in Kuwait City is enough to see the destruction of war and come home choking on it.

A Westover aircrew under Maj. Tim Olmstead flew supplies into the city's international airport on April 15. They saw a full array of the havoc of war from pockmarked buildings to debris abandoned by looters to empty bunkers littered with ammo.

TSgt. Al Trychon, loadmaster, returned with complaints of an irritated throat after only a few hours of breathing air polluted by burning oil wells.

"As soon as I was on the ground I felt a burning sensation in my nose and throat. When I returned and went to the clinic the doctor said that the membranes are irritated from the oil

particles," he said.

"I talked to ATOC people stationed there and they said you get used to it, but I don't see how," Sergeant Trychon said.

Approaching the Kuwait City airport at about 6,000 or 7,000 feet the Galaxy flew into solid black clouds. "It was like flying at night, the windshields were covered with oil," Sergeant Trychon said.

From the ground it appeared the sun was trying to poke through a cloudy, overcast sky. The smoke was coming from oil wells south and east of the airport which were close enough that the aircrews could see flames.

"We heard a couple of explosions. The local people said they were detonating munitions," Sergeant Trychon said.

"We thought they might be putting out oil well fires because we saw black smoke turn to white and then disappear.

"There were a lot of civilians in hard hats driving heavy equipment who appeared to be involved in fighting the oil well fires," he said.

While landing, the aircrew could see that the ground on both sides of the runway was cratered. When they went to the main terminal building it was riddled with shell holes.

"There were bunkers dug in the sand and lined with sand bags and what appeared to be anti-aircraft weapons. There were bullets strewn around the bunker area. In the bunkers you could see coffee urns, chairs and other things stolen from the terminal," Sergeant Trychon said.

Briefly ...

Red Sox outing

MWR wants to take you out to the ball game. Fifty tickets to the May 30 Red Sox game at Fenway Park in Boston will go on sale Friday morning at 8 a.m., at the Base Gym. The tickets cost \$20 each, which includes the cost of a box seat and bus transportation to the game.

Chamber breakfast

Westover AFB will be honored May 31 at the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce's annual Military Breakfast.

The event will start at 7:30 a.m. It will be held this year

in a tent in the downtown Chicopee business district, as part of the "Taste of Chicopee" celebration.

The base will be honored for its "outstanding achievements" during Operations Desert Storm and Patriot Home. Westover's "Airman of the Year" will also be honored. The name of the winner will be announced shortly. Also being recognized at the event is Betty O'Connell, a former Public Affairs Officer at Westover, who is retiring from the chamber staff.

Employer appreciation days

Would you like to show your boss what you've been doing at Westover during your Desert Storm activation?

The 439th MAW will host Employer Appreciation Days at Westover May 7, 11, 22 and June 8. For further details, contact MSgt. John Sullivan at extension 2957.

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Airlift home...(continued from front page)

assignment coordinating other airlift activities at a different location.

According to Sergeant Allocco, the consensus among team members is that they will remain in Saudi Arabia for a while longer after their present mission is completed.

They coordinate the massive airlift from an operation center located in an air-conditioned trailer.

The Westover team lives in a tent city which they share with approximately 2,500 other military personnel. The base where they are lo-

cated is also used as a helicopter training school and national guard base by the Saudis.

During the war with Iraq, several SCUD missiles were intercepted nearby by Patriot missiles.

The recreation facility at the base is a tent which contains a refrigerator (stocked with Perrier), a ping pong table and a dart board.

A Saudi Arabian military BX, which resembles a small shopping plaza, is nearby. A small mosque is located in the middle of the BX.



ALCE members aid in humanitarian airlift of Shiite refugees

SAUDI ARABIA--The shooting may have stopped, but many hardships of war still exist for both the soldiers and civilians who remain in the Persian Gulf.

Two members of Westover's ALCE team--Maj. Thomas A. Mauzaka and TSgt. James R. St. Cyr--learned that first hand recently when they spent four days living with an Army unit near the Iraq border.

The ALCE personnel, who have been in Saudi Arabia since April 1, deployed to the remote Army base to assist with the humanitarian airlift of Shiite Muslims who had fled from Iraq.

Major Mauzaka and Sergeant St. Cyr were interviewed last week in Saudi Arabia by TSgt. Tom Allocco and SrA. Kym Taylor of the 439th MAW Public Affairs staff.

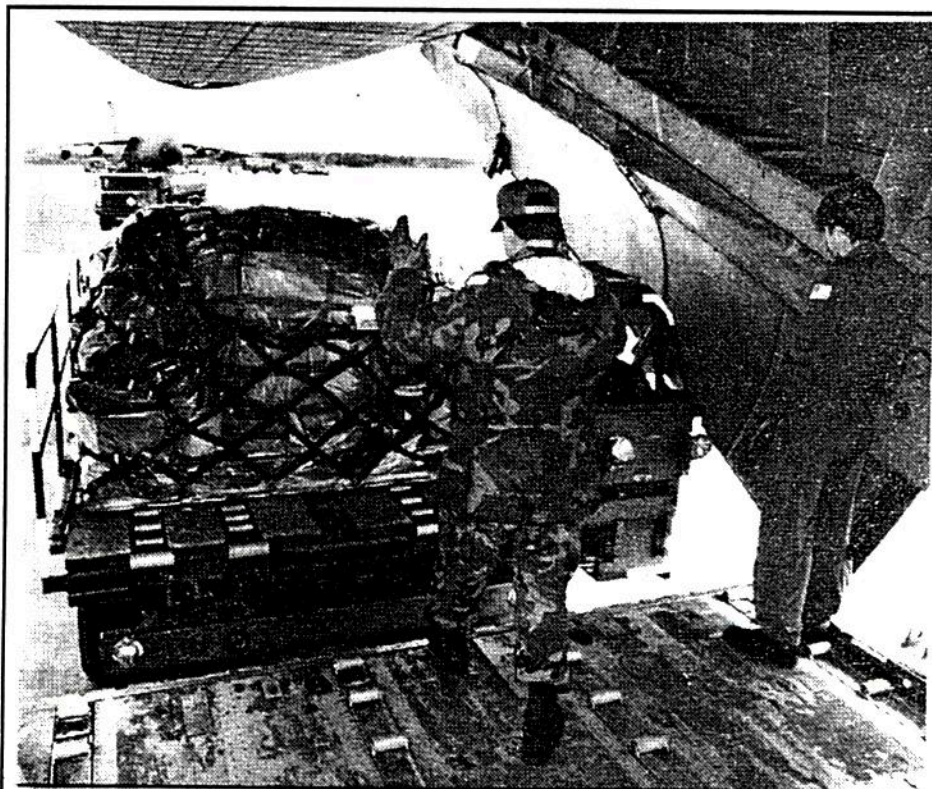
"It was the first time I had seen the personal repercussions of war," Major Mauzaka said. He added that it was heart-wrenching to "see people uprooted with just their personal belongings."

According to Sergeant St. Cyr, 80 refugees on one airplane would have only one pallet of belongings to share among them. "It's pathetic," he said.

The Shiites were persecuted by Saddam Hussein and sought haven by crossing from Iraq into Saudi Arabia. The U.S. Army has been assisting them at refugee camps hastily constructed near the border.

The Westover personnel, who helped manage the airlift of hundreds of the refugees to more permanent locations, say that the Army troops there are serving under austere conditions.

According to Major Mauzaka, the U.S. soldiers live in tents in the desert, sleep on cots and eat MREs for lunch
(continued on next page)



KURDISH RELIEF -- Aerial porters with the 42nd APS load relief supplies bound for the Kurds on the Turkey-Iraq border. *(photo courtesy of the Transcript-Telegram)*

The force was with us

The high-tech arsenal of the Allies during Desert Storm was literally like science fiction to the Iraqi privates on the ground. One enemy prisoner of war who had seen hidden Iraqi tanks smashed by unseen American forces at night thought that he had been victimized by star wars technology--"Star Wars" the movie, that is. The awe-struck Iraqi soldier asked his American captors to show him their "laser swords." In his mind, the Iraqi defenders had been on the receiving end of the wondrous technology depicted in the movies, not the Strategic Defense Initiative.

That anecdote was recently related by a 3rd Armored Division Black Hawk helicopter pilot to Maj. Wayne Petitto of Westover's ALCE team. Major Petitto, who has been serving in Saudi Arabia since April 1, was at an Army outpost north of Kuwait City when he heard the story.

Fuel specialist from 439th CES named "Airman of the Year"

SrA. Laura L. Irish, an energetic, 26-year-old fuels specialist from the 439th CES, has been selected as Westover AFB's "Airman of the Year."

A native of Dallas, Texas, Airman Irish graduated from Shawnee, Oklahoma High School and the Dickenson Business School in Oklahoma City.

She enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in December, 1988 and previously served with the 507th CES at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. She joined the 439th CES in October, 1989.

When Operation Desert Shield began last August, Airman Irish volunteered to work at the base on nine consecutive weekends. During this time, she also worked full-time at the Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, pursued her nursing degree through night classes at Greenfield Community College, and cared for her four-year-old son.

Last December, Airman Irish was called to active duty as one of the 1,550 reservists who were mobilized here for

the Persian Gulf War.

She has served on active duty as a fuels specialist since then.

Her unit has worked around the clock, pumping more than 50 million gallons of JP-4 jet fuel during the largest military airlift effort in history.

Since coming to Westover, Airman Irish has completed her Air Force career development course, the NCO preparatory course, and a special fuel valves school.

"Laura is really a dynamic person and she works very hard," said Maj. Talivaldi Maidelis, acting executive officer with the 439th CES. "Despite the fact that she's a single parent who faced a lot of hardships, she did a fantastic job."

Airman Irish will receive her award May 31 at the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce annual Military Breakfast.

Briefly ...

Dates changed

The dates for the Employer Appreciation Days at Westover have been changed. They will be held May 21, June 8 and June 12.

All Patriot Wing members are urged to invite their bosses to the base. For further details, contact MSgt. John Sullivan at ext. 2957.

Mass scheduled

The Chaplain's Office reminds that May 9 is the Feast of the Ascen-

sion, a holy day of obligation for Roman Catholics. Mass will be celebrated May 9 at 12 p.m. in Building 1408.

Mail still needed

Although the hostilities have ended, many Americans remain in the Persian Gulf. Approximately 40 Desert Storm troops from Westover are still deployed there.

Military personnel in the desert need mail and packages from home more than ever. You may still write to "Any Service Member," using the following addresses: (Army, Air Force and Marine Corps) Operation Desert

Storm, APO, NY 09848-0006; (Navy and Marine Corps aboard ships) Operation Desert Storm, FPO, NY 09866-0006.

Photo workshop

The Desert Shield Support Center will host an information session on career opportunities in professional photography.

The session, which will cover such areas as portrait photography, advertising illustration, aerial photography, photo finishing, retouching and industrial photography, will be held at the center on Saturday, May 11 at 10 a.m. For further information, contact the support center at ext.2273.

WESTOVER today

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Humanitarian airlift...

(continued from front page)

each day. Hot meals for breakfast and supper are prepared in a mobile field kitchen.

Because the temperature is over 105 degrees, the troops must constantly drink water to avoid dehydration.

Soldiers in the field shower using a large bucket. Because there is the fear that the Iraqis might still seek reprisals against the refugees, the U.S. troops constantly keep their flak jackets, helmets and weapons nearby.

Major Mazauka and Sergeant St Cyr both agreed that the Army troops were maintaining stability in the

region and were doing a very tough job under "harsh" conditions.

They added that they following their assignment with the refugees, they were glad to return to the bare bones, "tent city" airbase where they have been serving for the past six weeks.

Major Mazauka and Sergeant St. Cyr are part of the nine-member Westover ALCE team which is coordinating the Desert Storm redeployment airlift in Saudi Arabia. The massive airlift effort is being led by Lt. Col. Bob McMillan.

Approximately 30 nurses, radio operators and medical technicians from the 74th AES are also still serving in the Middle East.